



President Shelly salutes fallen Navajo warriors, issues Memorial Day statement



Navajo Nation President Ben Shelly salutes our fallen Navajo warriors that paid the ultimate price in defending the liberties of this country. He said Memorial Day is a time of honor and respect for those we lost on the battlefield. (Photo by Rick Abasta)

The Navajo Nation salutes the honor and sacrifice of our fallen Navajo veterans who passed in battle.

Brave Navajo men and women stand united across the country and overseas, protecting the ideals of our American way of life. They stand in defense of freedom, democracy and the safety of those they have left back at home.

Those that passed in battle have paid the ultimate price in the protection of our traditional homelands. The Navajo Nation is a tribe of warriors.

Time and again, we have answered to call of duty and flooded the U.S. Armed Services with the highest amount of volunteers per capita than any

other demographic in the country.

Today, Navajos serve on the frontlines of war in Afghanistan, fighting against terrorism, tyranny and oppression. These valiant men and women know their efforts are for the protection of their families and friends.

Many of our veterans have lost their lives in battle and others returned home with life-changing wounds that have left them disabled.

Navajo Nation President Ben Shelly salutes all veterans, past and present, for their volunteerism and willingness to protect our tribal nation against all enemies, foreign and domestic.

“Memorial Day is a time of remembrance and respect

for those who served in the military to protect our way of life,” President Shelly said. “This is especially true for the warriors we lost on the battlefield that never made it back home.

“Ahe’hee nihi siláotsohi,” he added.

Navajo veterans have served in all the major battlefields of the 20th and 21st centuries.

From World War I to World War II, they saw combat and protected the homeland with the most sacred of weapons, the Navajo language. The icy battlefields of Korean Conflict and jungles of Vietnam brought new challenges to our Navajo veterans to overcome.

Navajos answered the call again at the Persian Gulf, in Iraq,

and once again in Afghanistan. Whenever America called, we answered.

President Shelly said, “We must answer the call of our Navajo veterans for needed services. They need assistance with housing, healthcare, jobs and other areas of their lives. They protected us and it is now our duty and responsibility to assist them.”

Take the time this Memorial Day to give thanks and appreciation for every Navajo man and woman that donned the uniform to protect their country and our Navajo way of life. This is especially true for those that paid the highest price for protecting our freedom – their lives.